

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. application of: Ronald F. HARTUNG et al.

For: PROCESS FOR TREATMENT OF MINERAL CLAY SLURRY

U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATIONS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Signature

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Date of Signature

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of each document is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence. The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that the items listed below are properly citable against the above-identified application.

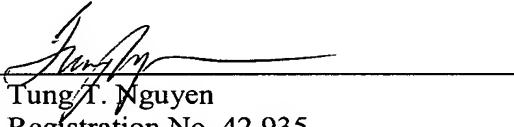
The following references are cited in the specification of the above-identified patent application:

- 1) Booth et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,418,237, issued December 24, 1968;
- 2) Oltmann, U.S. Patent No. 3,622,087, issued November 23, 1971;
- 3) Liu et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,680,698, issued August 1, 1972;
- 4) Ledden et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,707,523, issued December 16, 1972

- 5) Cook et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,763,041, issued October 2, 1973;
- 6) Mewes et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,932,275, issued January 13, 1976;
- 7) Hamer et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,049,547, issued September 20, 1977;
- 8) Chung et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,194,969, issued March 25, 1980;
- 9) Balcerski et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,224,149, issued September 23, 1980;
- 10) Chamberlain et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,251,363, issued February 17, 1981;
- 11) Halverson, U.S. Patent No. 4,342,653, issued August 3, 1982;
- 12) Thomas, U.S. Patent No. 4,265,770, issued May 5, 1981;
- 13) Rosen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,555,346, issued November 26, 1985;
- 14) Shaw, U.S. Patent No. 4,690,752, issued September 1, 1987;
- 15) Payne et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,178,775, issued January 12, 1993;
- 16) Luke et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,688,404, issued November 18, 1997; and
- 17) Luke, U.S. Patent No. 6,077,441, issued June 20, 2000.

As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced new patent application, no fee is required. If it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Tung T. Nguyen
Registration No. 42,935
Attorney for Applicants

TTN/fis
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 North Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201-6507
(214) 981-3478(Direct)
(214) 981-3300 (Main)
(214) 981-3400 (Facsimile)
November 21, 2003

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<p>Substitute for form 1449/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>		<p>Complete if Known</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application Number</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>HARTUNG et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>49721/61202</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number		Filing Date		First Named Inventor	HARTUNG et al.	Art Unit		Examiner Name		Attorney Docket Number	49721/61202
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 3,418,237	12/24/1968	Booth et al.	
		US- 3,622,087	11/23/1971	Oltmann	
		US- 3,680,698	08/01/1972	Liu et al.	
		US- 3,707,523	12/26/1972	Ledden et al.	
		US- 3,763,041	10/02/1973	Cook et al.	
		US- 3,932,275	01/13/1976	Mewes et al.	
		US- 4,049,547	09/20/1977	Hamer et al.	
		US- 4,194,969	03/25/1980	Chung et al.	
		US- 4,224,149	09/23/1980	Balcerski et al.	
		US- 4,251,363	02/17/1981	Chamberlain et al.	
		US- 4,342,653	08/03/1982	Halverson	
		US- 4,265,770	05/05/1981	Thomas	
		US- 4,555,346	11/26/1985	Rosen et al.	
		US- 4,690,752	09/01/1987	Shaw	
		US- 5,178,774	01/12/1993	Payne et al.	
		US- 5,688,404	11/18/1997	Luke et al.	
		US- 6,077,441	06/20/2000	Luke	
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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